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CAMBODIA: There was a general decline in the level of military activity in the Phnom Penh area over the weekend, but insurgent forces remain in position to renew the fighting. Government forces southeast of the capital succeeded in reopening a stretch of Route 1 some five miles to the east, easing at least temporarily the threat to the city from this direction. Sporadic enemy attacks occurred north and south of the city, but no significant territory changed hands. The only exception to the general lull has been west of the city, where enemy forces overran several key government positions some three miles northwest of the Pochentong airfield on 5 August. Defenses in this area had been weakened by the diversion of government forces to the Route 1 front.

The government has begun airlifting into Phnom Penh some five battalions of troops from the western provinces. While Routes 4 and 5 remain open to government supply convoys, the further concentration of troops in the capital area is bound to weaken the government's ability to keep these roads free of insurgent activity.

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FORCE REDUCTIONS: The North Atlantic Council agreed on Friday that the US paper submitted on 27 July would be the basis for developing an allied position for force reduction talks this fall.

The US paper proposes that NATO's over-all goal should be the imposition of a "common ceiling" on NATO and Warsaw Pact ground forces. The ceiling would be reached through a 10-percent reduction in NATO manpower and Warsaw Pact reductions to the new NATO force level. This over-all goal would be sought in negotiations divided into two phases. During the first phase, US and Soviet forces would be reduced to a level sufficient to obtain the withdrawal of a Soviet tank army. The second phase, which would be left undefined at this point, would complete movement toward the over-all force reduction goal.

Most of the allies reacted positively to the US paper, but a number of points were raised Friday that will be the subject of lengthy discussion before an allied negotiating position finally emerges. The British representative said the use of the "common ceiling" concept would create a logical need for a second phase, which he thought was not in the allied interest. The Dutch representative, while agreeing that the idea of a second phase should not be brought up prematurely in the talks, emphasized that it was essential to his government to establish during the first phase that there would be a second phase and that it would involve the reduction of indigenous European forces. On another subject, he thought that verification of any force reduction agreement by purely national means might be suited to the first phase, when only US and Soviet forces would be involved, but not to the second. The Turks and the Greeks raised questions about the effect on NATO's flanks of a force reduction agreement along the lines of the US paper. The Turkish representative thought that as it stood, the US proposal

[redacted] would increase the threat to the flanks, and he suggested the addition of language to the effect that reductions would be "without prejudice to undiminished security of the alliance as a whole." Nearly everyone thought that the allies must soon come to an agreement on the data base they will be using during the talks.

After the allies have straightened out these and other details, they will have to decide how best to begin negotiations with the Soviets. Some, including the US, favor presenting an allied proposal early in the talks. The British want a more cautious approach allowing time to sound out the Soviets. The Canadians pointed out at Friday's meeting, however, that perhaps the only way the allies could stimulate a meaningful dialogue with the Soviets would be to table a proposal at the outset.

NATO's Senior Political Committee will begin meeting on 7 August for further work on the allied position. [redacted]

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WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: The tenth World Youth Festival ended yesterday in East Berlin--apparently a success of sorts for its Communist sponsors.

More than 20,000 delegates from over 100 countries participated, but the large delegations from the USSR and the East European countries were able to dominate and keep control of the proceedings. Their handling of the festival pointed up one of the major problems facing Moscow--how to sustain enthusiasm for the general theme of "anti-imperialism" in an era of increasing cooperation between the US and the USSR. The Soviets sought a way out by playing down explicit references to the US at the festival. Soviet media gave the festival extensive coverage, but treated anti-US aspects with care, quoting only non-Soviet delegates when the US came in for criticism.

Tight controls over entry into East Germany during the festival kept to a minimum the "leftist" demonstrations that have disrupted several past festivals. East German officials paid special attention to the Arab delegations who were the only ones subjected to systematic body and baggage searches. Fatah leader Arafat was on hand for "Arab solidarity day," in part to head off any untoward events. He did speak out against terrorism and apparently was rewarded with an East German promise that his organization would be allowed to open a permanent office in East Berlin. [redacted]

FOR THE RECORD*

Greece: The identities and motives of the Arab terrorists who shot up the Athens international air-lines terminal yesterday afternoon are still under investigation. At least two men who identified themselves to Greek police as Palestinian Arabs hurled grenades and fired machine guns at passengers waiting to board flights for New York and Tel Aviv, killing three persons on the spot and wounding more than 50. Most of the dead and wounded were Greek or US citizens. While bargaining with police before finally giving up, the terrorists are alleged to have stated they had achieved their mission with the killings, but the possibility that they had intended to hijack an airplane remains open. As in other recent terrorist incidents, Palestine resistance spokesmen in Beirut have denied responsibility for the killings.

Vietnam-Iran: Hanoi and Tehran announced on 4 August the establishment of full diplomatic relations. No reference was made to the possibility that Iran will replace Canada on the ICCS, but Tehran's move may open the way for Communist acceptance. Saigon has already agreed to have Iran on the ICCS.

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North Vietnam - USSR: Party leader Le Duan met with Soviet party head Brezhnev over the weekend in the Crimea, according to TASS. The two leaders were expected to cover, among other topics, Soviet economic aid and support to Hanoi during the coming months.

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USSR-Cuba: Two Soviet surface combatants and a nuclear submarine arrived in Havana on 4 August for a six-day visit. The Soviets announced earlier that the ships--a Kresta class cruiser, a Kanin class destroyer, and an E-II class cruise missile submarine--would call at other Cuban ports after 9 August.

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USSR - East Germany: President Podgorny will head the Soviet delegation at the funeral on Tuesday of former East German party leader Walter Ulbricht. Other Communist countries probably will send equally high-level representatives.

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*These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.

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